



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

June 15, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

Send-off planned for about 170 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers Friday

Event scheduled for EAA Museum Eagle Hangar in Oshkosh

Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton will lead military and public officials at a huge send-off ceremony in Oshkosh Friday morning for 169 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers who were mobilized earlier this week.

The soldiers are members of the Oshkosh-based 1157th Transportation Company. Because the unit was previously mobilized for an 11-month active duty mission that began Sept. 26, 2002, many of the 1157th's soldiers are not required to answer this second call and the unit is being augmented by 87 qualified soldiers from other Wisconsin Army National Guard units from around the state (a list of these units and the number of soldiers each is providing can be found on Page 2).

The entire company will gather with their families for a send-off on Friday, June 17, at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum's Eagle Hangar. Following an 11:00 a.m. ceremony, with as many as 1,000 family members expected, soldiers will remain at the EAA Museum for about an hour with their families until they return to the Oshkosh armory. The soldiers will leave Wisconsin Saturday, June 17, for mobilization processing and several months of additional training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., before deploying overseas for one full year.

The 1157th's send-off will be led by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening and Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson. Other public officials and senior military officials will also be on hand, along with the Guard's 132nd Army Band of Madison, which has played for similar send-off and welcome home events for Guard units from around the state.

During the 1157th's mobilization from September 2002 to August 2003, the unit was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., and U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command. While most of the 150 soldiers remained at Fort Bragg, several were deployed to Afghanistan.

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On Aug. 31, 2005, the 1157th was ordered by Gov. Doyle to support Hurricane Katrina response efforts in Louisiana, and 107 soldiers with 60 vehicles were deployed for about two weeks at Naval Air Station Belle Chasse just southeast of New Orleans.

About 130 of the soldiers being mobilized this week are veterans of the Hurricane Katrina response (either as members of the 1157th or other Wisconsin units), and this is the second mobilization for as many as half the soldiers who were mobilized previously with either the Oshkosh unit or as members of other Wisconsin National Guard units that already served on active duty and returned.

In addition to 82 mobilizing soldiers who were members of the 1157th Transportation Company, 87 soldiers from 22 other Wisconsin Army National Guard units are filling unit vacancies:

- 13th Medical Dental Detachment (Madison) — 1 soldier
- 332 Rear Operations Center (Berlin) — 1 soldier
- 832nd Medical Company (West Bend) — 1 soldier
- Headquarters Detachment, 732nd Maintenance Battalion (Tomah) — 4 soldiers
- 107th Maintenance Company (Sparta) — 3 soldiers
- Det. 1, 107th Maintenance Company (Viroqua) — 4 soldiers
- Det. 2, 107th Maintenance Company (Sussex) — 3 soldiers
- 1158th Transportation Company (Tomah) — 2 soldiers
- Det. 1, 1158th Transportation Company (Beloit) — 9 soldiers
- Det. 2, 1158th Transportation Company (Black River Falls) — 2 soldiers
- Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation (Madison) — 2 soldiers
- Det. 1, Headquarters Company, 32nd Infantry Brigade (Wausau) — 1 soldier
- Headquarters Company, 132nd Support Battalion (Portage) — 1 soldier
- Company A, 132nd Support Battalion (Janesville) — 7 soldiers
- Det. 1, Company A, 132nd Support Battalion (Eau Claire) — 31 soldiers
- Det. 2, Company A, 132nd Support Battalion (Waupaca) — 7 soldiers
- Company B, 132nd Support Battalion (Mauston) — 1 soldier
- Det. 1, Company B, 132nd Support Battalion (Onalaska) — 2 soldiers
- 829th Engineer Detachment (Richland Center) — 2 soldiers
- Headquarters Company, 724th Engineer Battalion (Hayward) — 1 soldier
- Det. 1, Headquarters Company, 724th Engineer Battalion (Superior) — 1 soldier
- Company B, 724th Engineer Battalion (Spooner) — 1 soldier

Mobilization of 169 soldiers of the 1157th Transportation Company brings the total number of Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard members on active duty to about 2,575. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 7,330 soldiers and airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard — about 77 percent of the Guard's 9,700 member force — have served on active duty.

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The Guard's remaining 6,900 soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the send-off of the 1157th Transportation Company at the EAA Museum Eagle Hangar in Oshkosh on Friday, June 16.

No special access permission is required. I will be available with a member of my staff to assist you on Friday morning.

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